

Papier-mâché Eggs

Classroom Activity

Grades K-2

Skills Practiced

Art

- Using different media to create art projects
- Fine motor coordination
- Manipulating small objects
- Cutting paper using scissors

Math

- Measuring to the nearest inch

Science

- Using models to display data

Concepts Explored

- Reproductive strategy of dinosaurs
- Dinosaur egg shapes and sizes

Sample Objective

Students will be able to describe the size and shape of different dinosaur eggs.

Background

An exciting area of study in paleontology currently is the study of dinosaur eggs. Recent discoveries and new laboratory techniques have added to and changed what we know about dinosaurs and how they lived. Compared to the number of dinosaurs classified to date, the number of eggs which have been identified is relatively small. However, the amount of information that scientists can glean just from examining dinosaur eggs and their nests is incredible. For example, by studying dinosaur eggs, paleontologists can learn what kind of parents dinosaurs were, whether dinosaurs nested in colonies, what parents fed their hatchlings, and what embryonic dinosaurs looked like.

Use the table below to help your students create their own dinosaur eggs.

Dinosaur	Egg Size	Egg Shape
<i>Hypselosaurus</i>	10" diameter	round
<i>Hypsilophodonts</i>	6" long	potato shape
<i>Maiasaura</i>	8" long	oval
<i>Mussasaurus</i>	1" diameter	round
<i>Oviraptor</i>	6" to 8" long	potato shape
<i>Troodon</i>	4" long	oval
<i>Troodon</i>	6" long	oval

Materials

- rulers
- scissors
- newspapers cut into 1-inch wide strips
- papier-mâché paste (4 parts water to 1 part wallpaper paste)
- balloons, round and elongated shapes
- bucket for mixing wallpaper paste and water
- aluminum pie pans (or other medium-sized containers) for holding papier-mâché paste
- tempera paint and paint brushes

Teacher Preparation

There are several ways to do this activity. You can decide for the students which dinosaur egg(s) they will make or you can let them choose which one(s) they want to construct. All the students can make one type of dinosaur egg and put their eggs into a nest, or they can make eggs from different dinosaurs. For younger students, you will need to prepare many of the materials ahead of time (blow up the balloons to the appropriate sizes, cut the newspaper into strips, etc.). Older students can inflate the balloons themselves and use rulers to make sure their balloons reach the correct sizes.

Use bird eggs to discuss with students what is known about eggs in general, their sizes, shapes, and colors. What is the relationship between an animal's size and the egg it lays? For example, an ostrich lays an egg that is 6 inches long in contrast to a hummingbird's tiny egg. Which dinosaurs do they think had the largest eggs? If available, the article from *National Geographic* by Philip Currie entitled "The Great Dinosaur Egg Hunt" has excellent illustrations of the wide variety of shapes and sizes found in fossil dinosaur eggs. (See Dinosaur References for complete citation.)

For images of dinosaur on egg list, check the Dinosauricon Web site listed in references on page 4.